

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A sleeve having a flattened state and openable therefrom to an opened state, the sleeve having an inner space in its flattened state and comprising an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface, a first sidewall edge, a second sidewall edge, an upper end having an upper edge, and the sleeve having a ~~concave~~ lower end and a tapered shape in the flattened state, ~~the concave lower end consisting of~~ in the flattened state having a single inwardly curved lower edge in the flattened state, and the sleeve further comprising an inner space in the opened state which extends from the first sidewall edge to the second sidewall edge and wherein the lower end is substantially closed in the flattened state.

2. (Currently Amended) The sleeve of claim 1 wherein the ~~concave~~ lower end has a shape which is elliptical, curvilinear, rounded or ovoid.

3. (Currently Amended) The sleeve of claim 1 further comprising a gusset in the ~~concave~~ lower end.

4. (Original) The sleeve of claim 1 further comprising a detaching element for enabling detachment of an upper portion of the sleeve from a lower portion of the sleeve.

5. (Original) The sleeve of claim 4 wherein the detaching element comprises perforations.

6. (Original) The sleeve of claim 4 wherein the detaching element has a non-linear pattern such that when the upper portion is detached, the lower portion is left with an upper end having a non-linear upper edge.

7. (Original) The sleeve of claim 4 wherein the detaching element has a linear pattern such that when the upper portion is detached, the lower portion is left with an upper end having a linear upper edge.

8. (Original) The sleeve of claim 4 wherein the upper portion is sized to substantially surround and enclose a floral grouping.

9. (Original) The sleeve of claim 4 wherein the upper portion is adapted to support the sleeve from a support element.

10. (Original) The sleeve of claim 1 further comprising a skirt portion.
11. (Original) The sleeve of claim 1 wherein the sleeve has a generally frusto-conical shape when in the opened state.
12. (Original) The sleeve of claim 1 wherein the upper edge of the upper end is non-linear.
13. (Original) The sleeve of claim 1 wherein the upper edge of the upper end is linear.
14. (Currently Amended) A sleeve having a flattened state and openable therefrom to an opened state, the sleeve having an inner space in the flattened state, the sleeve comprising:
an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface, a first sidewall edge, a second sidewall edge, an upper end having an upper edge, and the sleeve having a ~~concave~~ lower end and a tapered shape in the flattened state, the ~~concave~~ lower end ~~consisting of~~ in the flattened state having a single inwardly curved lower edge, ~~and the sleeve further comprising an inner space in the opened state~~ which extends

from the first sidewall edge to the second sidewall edge and
wherein the lower end is substantially closed in the flattened
state; and

a detaching element extending from the first sidewall edge to the second sidewall edge for detaching an upper portion of the sleeve from a lower portion of the sleeve.

15. (Currently Amended) The sleeve of claim 14 wherein the ~~concave~~ lower end has a shape which is elliptical, curvilinear, rounded or ovoid.

16. (Currently Amended) The sleeve of claim 14 further comprising a gusset in the ~~concave~~ lower end.

17. (Original) The sleeve of claim 14 wherein the detaching element comprises perforations.

18. (Original) The sleeve of claim 14 wherein the detaching element has a non-linear pattern such that when the upper portion is detached, the lower portion is left with an upper end having a non-linear upper edge.

19. (Original) The sleeve of claim 14 wherein the detaching element has a linear pattern such that when the upper portion is detached, the lower portion is left with an upper end having a linear upper edge.

20. (Original) The sleeve of claim 14 wherein the upper portion is sized to substantially surround and enclose a floral grouping.

21. (Original) The sleeve of claim 14 wherein the upper portion is adapted to support the sleeve from a support element.

22. (Original) The sleeve of claim 14 further comprising a skirt portion.

23. (Currently Amended) The sleeve of claim ~~11~~ 14 wherein the sleeve has a generally frusto-conical shape when in the opened state.

24. (New) The sleeve of claim 1 further comprising a drainage hole in the lower end.

25. (New) The sleeve of claim 1 wherein the lower end is substantially closed.

26. (New) A pad comprising the sleeves of claim 1.

27. (New) The sleeve of claim 14 further comprising a drainage hole in the lower end.

28. (New) The sleeve of claim 14 wherein the lower end is substantially closed.

29. (New) A pad comprising the sleeves of claim 14.